Sl. No.	State	Hospitals
4.	Karnataka	Rajajinagar 500 beds
5.	Kerala	Asarmam, Kollam 200 beds
6.	Orissa	Rourkela 50 beds
7.	Punjab	Ludhiana
8.	Rajasthan	Jaipur 236 beds
9.	Uttar Pradesh	Sahibabad 100 beds
10.	Bihar	Phulwari Sharif 50 beds
11.	Gujarat	Bapu Nagar-600 beds
12.	Jammu & Kashmir	Jammu-50 beds

Increase in interest rate on EPF

972. SHRIMATI S. G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to increase the interest rate on EPE considering the expected growth of economy;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the EPF accumulation has been a strength of sources for Government's various needs of funds; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that there has been a demand for increase in EPF interest rate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Employees' Provident Fund Money is invested in accordance with the Investment Pattern notified by the Government of India under para 52(1) of the Employees' Provident Fund Scheme, 1952.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Demand for raising rate of interest on EPF

973. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that leaders of Trade Unions met Finance Minister

on 12th January, 2006 to urge him to raise the rate of interest on EPF by enhancing rate of interest on Special Deposit Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) to (c) The Central Government has already notified the rate of interest to be paid to the members on Employees Provident Fund @ 8.5% for the year 2005-06. There is no proposal under consideration to increase the rate of interest on Special Deposit Scheme (SDS) which has been fixed after due consideration.

Employment to educated youths

†974. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have conducted any survey to assess the number of educated unemployed youths in the country;

(b) if so, the details of existing ratio of educated youths and total number of unemployed youths in the country;

(c) whether Government are taking any special measures to provide employment to these youths and to bring down unemployment; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) and (b) Estimates of employment and unemployment are obtained through quinquennial labour force surveys conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation. Last such survey for which results are available was conducted during 1999-2000. As per this survey, number of unemployed persons on usual status basis was estimated at around 90 lakh. 60% of the unemployed i.e. around 54 lakh were educated (secondary & above).

(c) and (d) Creation of around 5 crore employment opportunities during the 10th Plan Period was targeted. Out of these, around 3 crore were to be

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.